

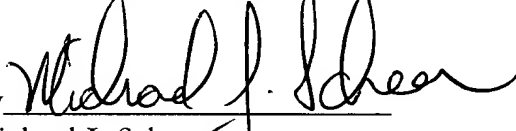
REMARKS

The above amendments have been made in accordance with a telephone conference conducted with the Examiner on October 20, 2003 by the undersigned representative of the applicants. As requested, the independent claims have been amended to further clarify the advantages of the present invention. Applicants submit that these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: January 8, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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